THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain flights are cancelled or rescheduled in winter season due to fog.

(b) A total of 1754 flights of Indian Airlines and Alliance Air Ltd. and 24 flights of Air India (domestic leg) were affected/cancelled due to bad weather during the last three years.

(c) while profit/loss figures of the airlines are not maintained by the Government. Indian Airlines (including Alliance Air) have indicated an estimated loss of Rs.14 crores during the last three years due to cancellation of flights and jet airways have indicated an estimated loss of Rs. 25 crores during the last three years on this account.

Collection of Income Tax

*235. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an expenditure of Rs. 2.37 has to be incurred to collect Income Tax of Re.1/- by Government.

(b) if so, what is the justification for spending more money to collect less income tax; and

(c) the quantum of income tax collected during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and how much money was spent on collection of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No Sir. As per the figures for financial year 2004-05, only 0.86 paise was incurred by the Government to collect one rupee of income tax (all direct taxes).

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) The amount of income tax collected (all direct taxes) and the expenditure incurred during the period under reference are as under:—

Financial Year	Amount Collected	Expenditure on collection
2004-05	1,32,771 crore	1,138 crore
2003-04	1,05,088 crore	1,050 crore

Management of facilities at airports

*236. SHRI S.M. LAL JAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed to bring about immediate improvement in passenger-amenities at Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad airports;

(b) whether it is a fact that the issues of parking, lack of trolleys and other basic facilities are not being properly managed;

(c) the steps proposed to improve management at the airports;

(d) whether Government have received representation on such problems; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Action has already been initiated for restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports through joint venture route by public private partnership. Step taken/ proposed to be taken for immediate improvement in passenger amenities at Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad airports are as under:

Delhi — Reconstruction of international apron, taxi tracks, parking bays, construction of five additional bays at domestic terminal and parallel taxiway of runway 09/27 and 10/28, revamping of traffic circulation at terminal 2, equipping of all the checking counters in international terminal with Common User Terminal Equipment (CUTE) system, provision of additional X-ray machines in security hold area at terminal 2 and refurbishing of a portion of terminal 1B. Mumbai—Extension and modification of terminal 1B, extension of taxi track B3 towards the beginnig of runway 27, construction of four international remote parking bays, link taxi track connecting new hanger area with the main runway, taxiway parallel to secondary runway 14/32, three new additional parking bays for large AB-380 type of aircraft, rapid exit taxi track at 1700m and 2200m from displaced threshould of main runway, night parking bays, new ceremonial lounge at terminal 1A, resurfacing of secondary runway, integration of arrival halls and immigration check for arriving passengers of terminal 2A and 2C. Hyderabad—Provision of one additional aerobridge, escalator, new/additional immigration and customs counters, refurbishing of VIP lounges, extension and renovation of both domestic and international terminals, modification of existing car parking, renovation of toilets, extension of apron and five extra bays on the old terminal building side.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has made available Duty Terminal Managers on round the clock basis and 'May I Help You' counters to guide or facilitate the passengers at these airports. AAI has a proposal to

have a Common enquiry/Help Desk at the international terminal at Hyderabad airport.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Access to gas and oil of Central Asian countries

*237.PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any plans to seek access through Afghanistan for gas and oil pipelines from Central Asian countries to India;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) what are the problems in getting such pipelines and access; and

(d) the details of steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURALI DEORA): (a) to (d) As the domestic availability of gas is not adequate to meet the country's demand, we have been pursuing import of gas, both as Liquefied Natural gas (LNG) and through transnational pipelines. Recently, an Indian delegation led by the Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas, participated in the 9th Steering Committee meeting of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline project held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, on 14-15 February, 2006, as an Observer. The Steering Committee has invited India to become an official member of the project. The invitation is under consideration.

At the Steering Committee meeting, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), who are the lead development managers and the consultants for the project, presented a draft report on the "Security Study of the Pipeline". The Security Study concluded that TAP Project is feasible from a security perspective, but would require a firm commitment of resources, innovative physical security measures, a dynamic social outreach programme, and professional management. The Afghan delegation confirmed that security in the country has improved; again, additional infrastructure is being developed which will enhance the security of the pipeline system. ADB also made a brief presentation about the options relating to project structure and investment scenarios pertaining to the project.

Other issues pertaining to the project relate to: Turkmenistan's gas reserves and the commitment of specific reserves for the project; the routing